"Nursing jobs are expected to grow faster than most other occupations for the next decade," said Congresswoman Kaptur. "Our region is well positioned to be a leader in nurse training, including graduate education."

The federal award will provide financial assistance for nurses in the traineeship program at UT, which offers a Master of Science degree in five concentrations: adult nurse practitioner/clinical nurse specialist; psychiatric-mental health clinical nurse practitioner; pediatric nurse practitioner; psychiatric-mental health clinical nurse specialist; and, nurse educator.

Master's prepared nurses who seek specialization as a nurse practitioner or a clinical nurse specialist provide direct care to patients, families or groups. Nurse practitioners have been recognized as significant contributors to the provision of health care and in some rural areas act as primary-care providers.

Those who seek preparation as nurse educators fill critical nurse faculty positions. A shortage of nurse educators has been a primary factor limiting the preparation of new nurses.